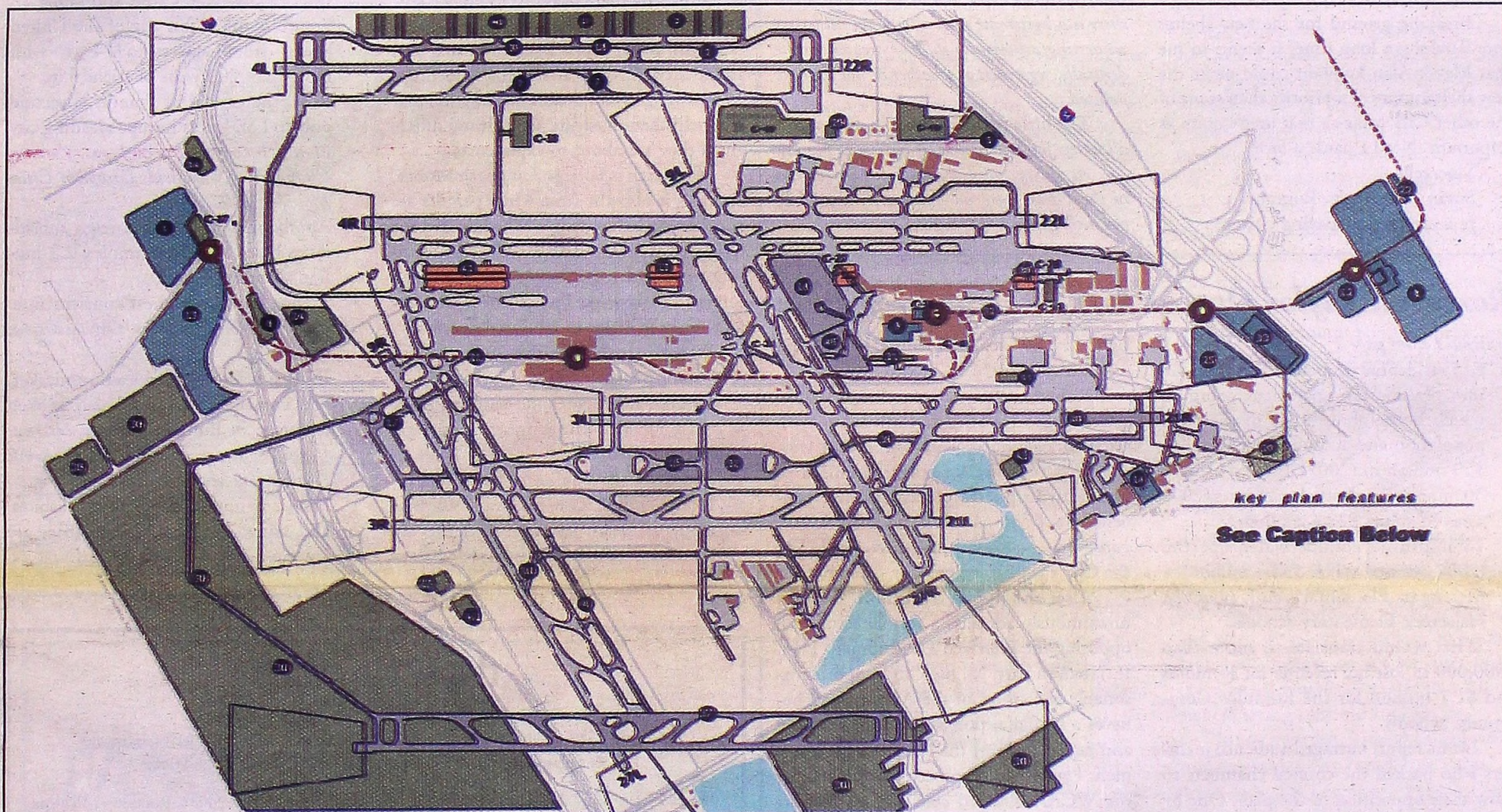


Romulus, Taylor Oppose Airport Expansion Plan



Pictured above is a portion of the Preferred Development Plan (for diagrammatic and illustrative purposes only) from Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport's Master Plan Study. The plan, according to the map's legend, "depicts projects anticipated to be implemented by year 2027." (Note: "North" is at the top right corner of the map. "Guidepost" roads are I-94 along the top right, Middlebelt along the bottom right, Pennsylvania along the bottom left, and I-275 along the top left.)

KEY PLAN FEATURES: (1) South Public Parking (4,000 Spaces); (2) West Cargo Taxiway (Phase 1); (3) Air Cargo Development (Phase 1); (4) Implementation Planning (Phase 1) (not shown); (5) North Centralized Checkpoint; (6) South Centralized Checkpoint and Culvert Bridge Improvements; (7) Runway 4L-22R High-Speed Taxiways; (8) Consolidated Rental Car Facility (CONRAC); (9) Blue Deck Public Parking Expansion (4,000 Spaces); (10) Runway 9R-27L High-Speed Taxiway; (11) Dirty Snow Storage Area; (12) North Employee Parking (2,500 Spaces); (13) Relocated South Employee Parking (3,500 Spaces); (14) Relocated Executive Terminal; (15) Runway 3L-21R Centralized Deicing Pad Expansion (Phase 1); (16) Runway 4R-22L Centralized Deicing Pad Expansion (Phase 1); (17) Runway 3L Perimeter Taxiways; (18) West Cargo Taxiway (Phase 2); (19) Air Cargo Development (Phase 2); (20) Runway 21R Extension and Land Acquisition (1,500'); (21) Implementation Planning (Phase 2) (not shown); (22) Airport Transit System & Maintenance Building; (23) McNamara Concourses B & C Expansion (10 Gates); (24) New Flight Kitchen; (25) North Public Parking (2,500 Spaces); (26) Taxiway PP Extension; (27) Perimeter Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Station 400; (28) North Terminal Expansion (5 Gates) (Phase 1); (29) Fuel Farm Expansion; (30) Land Acquisition – Fifth Parallel Runway; (31) Airline Freight Facilities; (32) Runway 3L-21R Centralized Deicing Pad Expansion (Phase 2); (33) North Public Parking Garage/Intermodal Center; (34) Concessions Distribution Center; (35) Relocated ARFF Training Facility; (36) New Storm Water Detention Pond; (37) Fifth Parallel Runway; (38) Meter Taxiway for Fifth Parallel Runway; (39) West Cargo Taxiway (Phase 3); (40) Air Cargo Development (Phase 3); (41) Airfield Maintenance Complex Satellite; (42) McNamara Concourses B & C Expansion (20 Gates); (43) Perimeter Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Station 500; (44) North Terminal Expansion (5 Gates) (Phase 2); (45) Runway 4R-22L Centralized Deicing Pad Expansion (Phase 2); (46) Taxiway J Extension; (47) Taxiway S Extension; (48) Taxiway U Extension; (49) Taxiway H Extension. **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS:** (C-21) Extend Taxiway G; (C-27) Demolition of Smith Terminal and Concourses; (C-28) Demolition of Berry Terminal; (C-33) Ground Run-Up Enclosure; (C-36) North Terminal Ground Transportation Center and Blue Deck Expansion; (C-37) South Cell Phone Lot; (C-48) Rogell Drive – Dingell Drive Connector; (C-49) Site Development for Public Safety Training Facility; (C-53) Airport Administration Building.

By Kristi Stephens

For decades, the relationship between the City of Romulus and Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport has been, at best, an uneasy truce. Residents have a laundry list of complaints that includes noxious odors and annoying noise at all hours of the day and night. They especially resent the fact that, given the Airport's size and impact on the community, Airport businesses contribute comparatively little in taxes to the City (about \$625,000 a year, or less than 3% of the annual budget, ac-

cording to City Assessor Julie Albert).

Also frustrating is that, while other cities' airports have drawn attractive development to their surroundings, such projects have somehow eluded Romulus, which has been stymied again and again in its efforts to draw big retail and entertainment venues to the area.

But, to many residents, the most disturbing aspect of being chockablock with the Airport is the possibility of being forced from your home. More than once in this community's past, airport expansion has

uprooted families, and many of those who lived through it are still bitter.

Over the years, City officials usually found themselves powerless to battle what they viewed as egregious injustices because county-level government often supersedes local authority. Some became so disheartened that they stopped challenging any problem connected with the Airport, saying, "What can we do?"

Those days are, apparently, over.

The Wayne County Airport Authority's recently proposed Preferred Development

Plan, which City officials say could displace as many as 3,500 residents, has united Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert and all seven City Council members, who have vowed to use every means at their disposal to fight its approval.

Adoption of the plan would be devastating to Romulus, according to City Planner Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP. Her outline of its potential impact, presented at the February 25 council meeting, asserted that Romulus could lose:

continued on page 2

Letter to the Editor

New Animal Shelter Should Be Higher Priority

To the Editor:

I recently had to go to the Romulus Animal Shelter. I was appalled at the condition of the building, and there is no bathroom for the female control officers. (I couldn't believe it.)

Breaking ground for the new shelter sure is taking a long time. It seems to me that Mayor Alan Lambert could make the new shelter more of a priority than some of the other City projects that aren't quite as important. Need I name a few?

Sincerely,

Susan R. Schieda, Romulus

(a concerned taxpaying citizen)

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether or not they are printed.

The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

As always, opinions expressed in "Letters to the Editor" are not necessarily shared by the staff of the little paper. □

Romulus, Taylor Oppose Airport Expansion Plan

continued from page 1

- 815 residential properties and the 352-unit Sky Harbor apartment complex, which house about 16% of the city's population and account for more than \$59 million in (2007) assessed value.
- 30 improved industrial properties (2007 assessed value: \$22.4 million).
- 18 improved commercial properties (2007 assessed value: \$32.4 million).
- Merriman Elementary and, possibly, Halecreek Elementary schools.

That would translate to more than \$900,000 in lost tax revenue for Romulus and \$1.7 million for the Romulus Community Schools.

Lyon's report outraged audience members who packed the council chambers to show their opposition to the plan. One by one, they stood and expressed their anger, and many complained that, even if the expansion never comes, the announcement of its possibility has destroyed the value of their property and their ability to sell it.

WCAA representative Scott Roberts, who attended the meeting in the stead of CEO Lester Robinson, told the audience that he understood their frustration, and assured everyone that – if the need for expansion ever arrived – the Airport will do its best to relocate everyone affected.

But many longtime residents dismissed his assurances, expressing their distrust because of previous "lies." Among those who recalled past grievances was former Romulus City Councilman Barry Baumann, who congratulated the current officials on their vow to challenge the proposed plan.

Referring to Mayor Lambert's earlier assertions that the Airport had ignored repeated correspondence from his office, Baumann asked Roberts, "When the mayor of the city can't even get a response from [Airport officials], how the hell are you gonna treat [residents] right?"

"This is a war," he continued. "This is a war, now, and we've got a lot of generals and a lot of troops that are gonna join this

fight. ... The City has finally taken a stand and said, 'Enough!'"

Roberts, who had previously established a good working relationship with City officials during his connection with the Airport Noise Program, promised to look into Lambert's correspondence concerns – and, on March 5, he told *the little paper* that a response had been mailed to the City on the previous day (March 4).

After the public discussion, Council unanimously adopted a formal resolution opposing the Preferred Development Plan. It stated, in part, "... the City supports reasonable expansion of the Airport, and believes a strong airport is good for the City and region ... [but] the Preferred Development Plan being submitted for approval by the WCAA is based solely upon Airport operations, and fails to take into consideration the direct social and economic impacts outside the Airport boundary ..."

Officials promised to pursue a number of options to discourage the plan's approval when it is presented to the WCAA Board on March 20. One of these options, identified in City Planner Lyon's presentation, is to seek the support of officials in all levels of government. Efforts to that end are currently underway, and have already resulted in a resolution of support from the City of Taylor.

"We are not opposed to reasonable expansion of the Airport," said Mayor Cameron Priebe, who proposed the resolution. "We don't mind them growing if and when there is a need for additional capacity. We don't want to stand in the way of job opportunities and economic development – but, in Taylor, we have issues with noise, safety, and pollution."

Taylor's resolution, like the one adopted by the Romulus City Council, encourages the WCAA to explore alternative options that meet the needs of the Airport while minimizing impact on the surrounding community. Both cities believe that

continued on page 4

Guest Commentary

Students Benefit from Foreign Language Study

By Rosa Russenberger, Romulus High School French teacher

Bon Voyage! French students at Romulus High School will be taking a trip to France over their Spring Break!

Oui, oui, that's right! RHS French students have prepared for this 11-day adventure with many hours of fund-raising and attendance at weekly after-school meetings, where they gained valuable information that will help them navigate the cultural differences they are about to experience.

As March is Foreign Language Month, and this is also the time when parents are considering their child's schedule for the next school year, it is an excellent opportunity to consider the benefits of learning a foreign language like French. Here are a few facts to help make an educated decision.

- French is spoken in 55 countries across 5 continents.
- As French provides the base for more than 50% of the English language, learning French naturally helps students improve their English skills.
- Many studies show that students who study a foreign language, like French, get higher scores on standardized tests.

- Thirty-two countries recognize French as their official language.
- French is the official language of the UN, NATO, UNESCO, International Olympic Committee, European Union, International Red Cross, and more!
- France is the oldest ally of the United States – from Lafayette to D-Day – with more than 200 years of friendship.
- Paris, the capital of France, is second only to London as Europe's leading city in which to locate a business. (Source: Cushman & Wakefield, *European Cities Monitor*, 2007)
- Approximately 18,000 foreign subsidiaries based in France employ 2.3 million workers.
- France has the highest tourism rate. (Source: *World Tourism Organization*, 2007)
- Europe is the world's leading market, and French is the most widely spoken language in Europe. (Source: *International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database*, October 2007)
- France is not all about food, fashion, and wine; 14 French companies are among the world's top 200. □

the little paper

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Guest Commentary

Keeping Families in Their Homes

By US Senator Carl Levin (D-MI)

More and more homeowners are having trouble keeping up with their mortgage payments, particularly when they have adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs). Michigan has seen an increase in the number of foreclosure filings of 282% since 2005.

The foreclosure crisis in Michigan has compounded the crisis in manufacturing. Although the U.S. has lost three million manufacturing jobs since he took office, the Bush Administration continues to disregard our manufacturing sector. While we await an administration that will support a broad-based American manufacturing initiative that can boost our economy as a whole, we also need to act immediately to address the mortgage crisis directly.

That will require a team effort among federal, state and local governments, community and neighborhood organizations, and lenders, brokers, and borrowers. A comprehensive solution is the only way to keep people in their homes and to maintain a housing market where families will have an opportunity to own a home and where property values are stable.

Recently, I convened a series of roundtable meetings in a number of Michigan communities. Leaders from local and state government, as well as organizations that are in the trenches working with families facing foreclosure, came together to discuss practical ways to help homeowners and protect our economy from further damage.

Participants in the meetings said that communities would like to rehabilitate abandoned and foreclosed properties so that surrounding property values do not fall. But currently the funds do not exist to do that.

We heard that foreclosure prevention counselors are overwhelmed, and that a lack of funds is tying the hands of local groups trying to help keep families on track.

We also heard that many homeowners face the financial pressures of owing more on their mortgages than the dollar value of

their houses. Participants in the meetings discussed the need for more affordable loans that would help these families refinance and stay in their current homes. Most homeowners do not want to uproot their children and leave their community behind, even if the balance of their mortgage is greater than the current market value of their home.

The Senate is considering a housing stimulus package that includes a number of proposals to address some of the problems raised in my roundtable meetings. The bill includes increased federal grants to areas with the highest foreclosure rates to help rehabilitate abandoned properties and prevent further damage to local housing values. The bill also provides funds for pre-foreclosure counseling, and authorizes states to issue new tax-exempt bonds to help homeowners refinance adjustable rate mortgages.

Congress has already taken some modest action to help limit the impact of the foreclosure epidemic for taxpayers. In December, we passed the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act – based on Senator Debbie Stabenow's legislation that I cosponsored – which allows homeowners to have their mortgage debt forgiven by a lender without being penalized on their income tax returns. Previously, the forgiven debt was taxed as income, resulting in a significant and unexpected tax bill that further exacerbated financial problems of homeowners trying to avoid foreclosure.

In my meetings with Michigan citizens who are working on foreclosure issues, they made clear that a number of commonsense measures can be helpful in confronting this problem. Hopefully, Congress will enact some of these measures shortly.

I will continue to work for legislation that will make a difference for Michigan homeowners who find themselves on the ropes. Effective action to address the mortgage crisis is critical for us to secure Michigan's and this nation's economic future. □



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Brownstown Township's Traffic Accident Reports Are Now Available Online

The Brownstown Police Department has announced that traffic accident reports are now available for online purchase through the TRACview Accident Report System.

The Internet-based program is intended to provide citizens with a more expedient way to obtain accident reports, according to a Township press release.

"We are convinced that Internet viewing and printing will significantly reduce the time spent dealing with insurance agencies and citizens seeking copies of traffic accident reports," the statement read. "... The Brownstown Police Records unit files nearly 1,000 traffic accident reports yearly. Normally, each accident report will contain two drivers. This means that several individuals and/or insurance companies request

copies of reports."

Most reports are available within 24 hours, excluding holidays and weekends.

Reports are available 24/7 in a PDF format – convenient for viewing, saving, printing, and e-mailing clear, high-resolution images – by visiting the TRACview Web site: www.tracview.com.

Reports cannot be modified, maintaining report integrity.

Brownstown will also continue to have reports available for purchase at the Brownstown Police Department at a cost of \$10.

TRACview provides police departments with a high-speed scanner or fax machine, scanning software, and training. The company charges a nominal fee for this service, which is added to the price of the report. □

Romulus, Taylor Oppose Airport Expansion Plan

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there are other alternatives that would allow the Airport to increase capacity without negatively affecting the area beyond its current boundaries.

But, Michael Conway, Public Affairs Director for the Airport, disagrees. In a recent statement issued to *the little paper*, he explained his belief that everyone needs to think in terms of the bigger picture.

"When you look at a large map of the entire region served by Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), a Master Plan designed to accommodate future growth in aviation makes a lot of sense," he said. "According to the University of Michigan–Dearborn, activity at DTW already stimulates more than 71,000 jobs statewide, and has a \$7.6 billion annual economic impact.

"The opportunity for future growth in aviation would certainly mean more jobs and prosperity in our region," he continued. "In an era when manufacturing jobs are in decline and economic diversity is needed for future economic growth, such planning becomes imperative."

Public Meeting

Romulus officials also want to muster support from the public. In fact, they're hoping for a big turnout at a meeting to be held in the gymnasium at Merriman Elementary School (15303 Merriman) on Tuesday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will give residents and business owners a chance to voice their concerns and hear an updated presentation from City of Romulus officials. □

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Capitol Update

Enhanced Driver's License To Help Michigan Residents Crossing Canadian Border

By State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood,
22nd District of Michigan

Following recent federal requirements that U.S. travelers must present a passport when re-entering the United States from Canada and Mexico, Michigan residents will soon have the option of purchasing an enhanced driver's license or state identification card to use in place of a passport. These identification cards will comply with the federal government's Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, and use a radio-frequency identification chip within the card to confirm the identity of the card holder.

House Bills 5535 and 5536, which are on their way to be signed by the Governor, ensure that the cards meet federal standards while prohibiting the inclusion of biometric data in this chip and including clear security requirements for the protection of personal information. This chip will allow for expedited crossing at any of Michigan's ports of entry.

Applications for enhanced driver's licenses and state identification cards will be processed at local Secretary of State branches. These optional new cards will cost approximately \$50, almost half the cost of a passport.

Since they serve as a form of citizenship identification, they are available only to United States citizens, so applicants must present proof of their citizenship. Neither the license nor ID can be used in place of a passport for air travel internationally, but can be used when crossing the U.S.-Canadian border.

The enhanced cards offer a more affordable citizenship document to Michigan residents visiting Canada, and facilitate the continued travel, trade, and tourism that are vital to both the Michigan and Canadian economies.

Michigan's Superintendent Addresses High School Graduation Requirements

I convened the first meeting of the House Subcommittee on High School Alternatives this week by inviting members from the Department of Education to speak on the new high-school graduation requirements which apply to this year's ninth graders. The Subcommittee heard testimony from Mike Flanagan, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, as well as Betty Underwood, the Director of the Office of School Improvement, and Deborah Clemmons, the Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction.

Future meetings will further outline the graduation requirements, and hear testimony on possibly expanding the ways that students can meet the requirements by gaining the required skills or knowledge.

We in the legislature are proud to have graduation standards among the highest in the nation; however, we must also ensure that students have the opportunities to meet the high standards and achieve success in high school and later in life.

State's Human Trafficking Penalties May Become Nation's Toughest

The House voted almost unanimously to strengthen the state's human trafficking penalties, placing Michigan in line to have the nation's toughest such penalties should these bills pass the Senate.

Expanding upon the new federal human trafficking statute, House Bills 4914-4918 would allow for the prosecution, under Michigan's racketeering statute, of anyone who acts to support human trafficking, either through direct involvement or financial participation, as well as allow the state to seize and sell any assets used in human trafficking; provide restitution to victims of this heinous crime; and reimburse prosecutors, investigators, and courts for legal fees and the costs of prosecution.

Following the 2005 case of a Michigan couple who enslaved a fourteen-year old girl from Cameroon for their personal profit, state residents sadly became aware that human trafficking is not just a crime that happens someplace else.

I supported this important package of legislation because anyone who aides the trafficking of people, which is tantamount to modern-day slavery, must face the strictest of penalties, and prosecutors must have such penalties available to go after those involved.

Film Incentives Package Introduced in House

As part of a widespread and continuing effort to attract business investment and create jobs, members of the House introduced a film incentive package that will offer the best loan incentives and tax rebates in the country to companies who film motion pictures and commercials within the state. While Michigan's diverse environment - ranging from dense forests and beach waterfronts to urban centers and sprawling farms - offers attractive physical locations for filming, passage of these bills will offer attractive financial reasons for producers to choose Michigan.

Film production contributes to state and local economies through purchases of local goods and the hiring of local workers, and other states that have enacted film incentives witnessed an increase of several hundred million in film-related dollars. It is time Michigan capitalizes on this opportunity, and I applaud my House colleagues for their bipartisan work in preparing this innovative package. □



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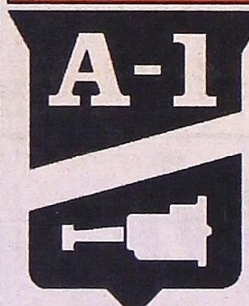
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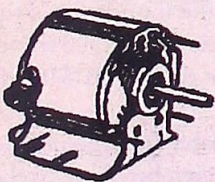
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Around Romulus



A Soul Food & Jazz Dinner held on February 27 at Romulus Middle School raised more than \$600 for the school's Student Activity Fund. As usual, local elected officials like (from left) Romulus Board of Education secretary Tom Kuderik, Romulus City Councilman John Barden, Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert, School Board trustee Celeste Roscoe, and Board treasurer Cheryle Buckley served up the homemade dishes contributed by various community members. The popular annual event brings everyone together for "good eats and good greets" – food for the soul, indeed!



The 2007-2008 Romulus Competitive Cheer Team finished its second season and made it to regionals. Pictured are: (from left) front – Chelsea Earby (All-Academic), Sha'Tarra Johnson (All-Region Honorable Mention), and Alyssia McVay (All-League); middle – Miracle Baynes, Diamond Dortch, Brooke Graham, and Ashleigh Cofield; back – Sarah Godfrey, Briana Shreve, Brianna Boyd, Astacia Watts, Aubrey Gaston, Coach Jade Curry, Tia Evans, and Sarah Payne.



Earlier this week, the Romulus Athletic Center filled its newly completed pools as part of a "wet run" for its projected opening on April 1.

Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 14.

Belleville

Quilt Exhibit

The "Patches and Patterns: A Celebration of Quilts" exhibit will feature more than 160 antique and contemporary quilts on display at the Belleville Area Museum (405 Main Street) from noon to 4 p.m. each Tuesday through Saturday through March 29 (except Easter weekend). Children's sewing classes will be offered on Saturday, March 8.

Admission is \$1.

For information, call 734-697-1944.

Brownstown Township

"Texas Hold 'Em" Tournament

The Brownstown Fire Fighters will host their third annual No-limit Texas Hold 'Em Tournament at the Brownstown Moose (22112 Sibley Road at I-75) on Saturday, March 29. Registration and dinner will run from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. Cards will be dealt at 6 p.m. sharp. Cash payout to the final table.

A cost of \$65 per person includes \$2,000 in chips, dinner, and beer. Registration is limited to 100 players.

For information, call Chris Russo at 734-845-6519 or 734-675-5909, or Rodney Roberts at 734-341-3133 or 734-941-8860.

New Boston

Nursery School Open House

Parents of children ages 30 months to 5 years are invited to attend an Open House at Huron Countryside Cooperative Nursery (located in St. Paul Church, 19109 Craig Street) on Tuesday, March 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Information will be available on parent-tot classes for two-year-olds as well as classes for three- and four-year-olds. Families are welcome to come and meet the teacher, explore the classroom, make crafts, meet other parents and children, and enjoy refreshments.

Applications for the 2008-2009 school year will be accepted at that time.

For further information, please call HCCN at 734-753-5978 or Bambi Shelley at 734-778-0520.

Special Services at St. Paul

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (19109 Craig Street) invites the public to attend the following "Lamb of God - Pure and Holy" special services for the Lenten/Easter season:

- Wednesdays, through March 12, at 7 p.m.

- Maundy Thursday (March 20) at 7 p.m.
 - Good Friday (March 21) at noon
 - Good Friday (March 21) at 7 p.m.
 - Easter "sunrise" (March 23) at 6:30 a.m.
 - Easter "morning" (March 23) at 10 a.m.
- To learn more, call 734-753-9048.

Romulus

Romulus Little League Baseball/Softball Registration

Romulus residents ages 5 to 18 are invited to register for Romulus Little League's 2008 baseball and softball season at the Romulus Recreation Department (11185 Shook Road) on one of the following dates:

- Friday, March 7 - 5 to 8 p.m., and
- Saturday, March 8 - 12 to 4 p.m.

Cost is \$45 for one player, \$65 for two players from the same immediate family, or \$75 for three or more players. (A \$20 deposit - to be returned once four hours of volunteer time have been completed - is also required, and each player must take part in a candy-sale fund-raiser.) Player's original birth certificate and three proofs of residency must be provided.

For information, call 734-913-9646.

"Texas Hold 'Em" Tournament

The Romulus Progressive Club and the Romulus High School volleyball team have scheduled a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament fund-raiser at Progressive Hall (11580 Ozga Street) on Saturday, March 8. Doors open at 6 p.m.; play begins at 6:30 p.m. First place will yield a prize of up to \$1,000 (based on a minimum of 75 entries). Buy-in cost is \$50 per player. Net proceeds will benefit the RHS volleyball team.

School Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education will be held at the District's Administrative Offices (36540 Grant Street) on Monday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club - open to everyone 18 and older - are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in and enjoy the discussion and refreshments.

Books planned for discussion include:

- *The Wedding Dress* by Virginia Ellis (March 10),
- *Blue Shoe* by Anne Lamott (April 14),
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis (May 12),
- *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger (June 9), and
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle (July 14).

For more information, ask a librarian or call 734-942-7589.

City Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Romulus City Council will be held at City Hall (11111 Wayne Road) on Monday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Silent Auction and Wine Tasting

The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce will host its ninth annual Silent Auction and Wine Tasting at the Metropolitan Hotel (31500 Wick Road, Romulus) from 6:15 to 10 p.m. on Friday, March 14.

Participants will also enjoy a menu of hors d'oeuvre (crab vol au vent with a sweet remoulade), salad (mesclun mix with roma tomato; served with a cherry or balsamic vinaigrette), entrée (petit filet of beef with a pine nut borsini demi and seared mahi mahi, Yukon gold mashed potatoes, and steamed asparagus with baby carrots), and dessert (forest berry mousse in a tulip cup).

Tickets are \$50 each.

For more information, call the Chamber (734-893-0694).

Scrapbooking Event

Romulus Little League is inviting the public to a Scrapbooking fund-raiser to be held at the Community United Methodist Church (11160 Olive Street) on Saturday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

A cost of \$30 per person covers four feet of crop space, lunch, dinner, and door prizes. Scrapbooking-related items will be available for sale from independent consultants from various companies. Raffle tickets will also be sold.

For information, call 734-913-9646 or e-mail romuluslittleleague@comcast.net.

Historical Society Meets

The next meeting of the Romulus Historical Society will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, at the Romulus Historical Museum (11120 Hunt Street). The public is welcome.

Easter Bowl-a-Thon

St. Aloysius Catholic Church will host an Easter Bowl-a-Thon fund-raiser at Romulus Lanes (37452 West Huron River Drive) on Saturday, March 29, at 1 p.m.

For further details, call Romulus Lanes (734-941-6200) or Joe Ozog (941-3466).

"Polar Science Adventure"

The Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road), the Ann Arbor Exhibit Museum of Natural History, and University of Michigan science students will join together at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 31, to present *Melting Away: Protecting the Poles*, the final segment of a three-part Family Reading/Science series aimed at children ages 6 to 11.

For information about this hands-on, family-friendly program, call 734-942-7589.

Voter Registration Deadline

Residents who want to take part in the Romulus Community Schools' annual elec-

tion, but are not yet registered to vote, must register by Monday, April 7. For more information, call the Romulus City Clerk's Office: 734-942-7540.

"Legacy Five" in Concert

Bethany Bible Church of Belleville will present "Legacy Five" in concert in the auditorium at Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road) on Friday, April 11, at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 in advance, or \$14 at the door (if available).

For information, call 734-697-7456 or visit www.bethanybiblechurch.com.

Bowl-a-Thon

The Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter will host its fourth Bowl-a-Thon fund-raiser at Romulus Lanes (37452 West Huron River Drive) on Friday, April 25, at 7 p.m.

For further details, call Romulus Lanes (734-941-6200) or Romulus City Councilman Bill Wadsworth (941-0616).

School Board Election

The annual election for the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, May 6. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, call the Romulus City Clerk's Office at 734-942-7540.

Taylor

"Texas Hold 'Em" Tournament

The Taylor Foundation for Educational Excellence will host a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament fund-raiser on Friday, March 14, at Taylor Meadows Golf Club (25360 Ecorse Road). Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.; tournament play will begin at 7 p.m. Food will be provided; a cash bar will be available, as well.

Entry requires a \$100 donation, with proceeds benefiting the foundation. Prizes will be \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place, \$200 for third, and \$100 for fourth.

Tickets are available from Foundation Board of Directors member Amy Skehan (313-295-5742) and Cathy Busatti of the Superintendent's Office (734-374-1209). There is a \$10 cover charge for guests/nonplayers.

Elsewhere

Bazaar Features Cookoffs, Bake/Craft Sale

A Benefit Bazaar for a local cancer patient will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, at Calvary Baptist Church (15221 Eureka Road, Southgate).

Highlights of the event will include hot-wing and chili cookoffs as well as the sale of donated baked goods and assorted craft items.

continued on page 11

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____
Birthdate _____ Time _____
Weight _____ Length _____
Birthplace _____
Parents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Paternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Bride's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsmen _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

Taylor "Winter Blast"

Fun Warms Frigid Days

Children in grades two through six had extra fun during their recent school break thanks to the City's Winter Blast program, held February 25-29 at Heritage Park. Activities like arts & crafts and a variety of organized games were supplemented by field trips that featured movies, bowling, and ice skating. Daily snacks were an additional treat. Here, 10-year-old Rachel Smith took care to line up her best shot in a game of pool with (not pictured) brothers William and Doug Landon (ages 9 and 11, respectively). (Photos by Kathleen Trent)



The parachute game – one of several group activities – brought a bright spot of color into a dreary winter day.



(From left) Nicholas Burtch, age 9, and Ian McNulty, 8, enjoyed playing together at one of the activity center's game tables.

"Sassy Seniors" News

For more information about these or other programs, contact the appropriate senior center or other organization.

Brownstown

21311 Telegraph • 734-675-0920

Project Healthy Living

Brownstown adults (age 18 and older) are urged to take part in Project Healthy Living, a program designed to promote positive health habits and detect disease during its initial stages of development, enabling early treatment and aiding in the prevention of advanced illness. Free and low-cost health-screening tests, educational literature, and counseling will be featured.

Admission to the program – to be held at the Senior Center on Wednesday, April 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – is free, and no advance registration is required.

Bingo Breakfast

The Senior Center's next Bingo Breakfast is set for Monday, March 17, at 9 a.m. Pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, and coffee will be the menu for the morning.

A donation of \$2.50 is requested from those not playing bingo. Register in advance at the Recreation desk.

Potluck & Games Night

The Senior Center's next Potluck & Games Night is set for Monday, March 24, at 5 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and a \$.50 donation, or come without a dish and make a \$3 donation. (The Center provides a meat dish and beverages.) Advance registration (at the Recreation desk) is required.

Craft Class

Medilodge of Taylor will sponsor a free one-day craft class at the Brownstown Community Center on Wednesday, March 19. Preregister at the front desk.

Regular Events

Regular programs offered by the Center include:

- euchre (Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- quilting (Wednesdays, 9 a.m.),
- blood-pressure checks (first Thursdays, noon),
- bowling (Fridays, 1 p.m., Flat Rock Lanes), and
- exercise (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 a.m.; \$.25 donation/class).

Call for more information.

Special Trips

Area seniors are invited to take part in one or more of the following trips.

- **DSO – "The Beat Goes On"** (Thursday, March 27; \$50 cost includes transportation, continental breakfast, admission to the show at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and lunch),
- **"Menopause: The Musical"** (Friday, April 10; \$60 cost includes transportation, admission to the show; and lunch at the Century Grille),

- **"Surviving Samco"** (Friday, April 18; \$40 cost includes transportation, admission to the show, and a five-course Italian lunch at Genetti's Hole in the Wall),
- **Red Hat Society Luncheon at Zehnders in Frankenmuth** (Tuesday, April 22; \$45 cost includes transportation, chicken dinner and dessert, entertainment, and prizes; note that members and guests must dress in "full regalia" – red hat and purple outfit for women 50 and over; pink hat and lavender outfit for women under 50 – when attending Red Hat Society meetings and events.),
- **"Evita"** (Sunday, April 27; \$93 cost includes transportation, admission to the show at the Stranahan Theatre, and lunch at a Toledo-area restaurant), and
- **"Don't Dress for Dinner"** (Tuesday, April 29; \$35 cost includes transportation, admission to the show at Cornwell's Dinner Theater, and turkey dinner with all the trimmings).

Call the Center for more information.

Hot Lunches

Don't forget that the Senior Center serves a hot lunch at noon each weekday (except for holidays) for a suggested donation of only \$2.25.

Call by noon at least one business day in advance to make your reservation.

Romulus

36525 Bibbins • 734-955-4120

Tax Preparation Services

AARP will be at the Romulus Senior Center from 12:30 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday through April 9 to provide tax preparation assistance to senior citizens (age 60 and older), low-income individuals, and persons with disabilities.

Tax services will also be offered at the Romulus Tower senior apartments building on Fridays (except Good Friday).

This service is available by appointment only. Call to make your reservation.

A list of items to be brought to your appointment is available from the Center.

The Color Purple

A few tickets are still available for the Romulus Senior Center's trip to the Fox Theatre Detroit to see the hot new musical, *The Color Purple*, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker and the film by Steven Spielberg.

Tickets are \$40. For more information, call the Center.

March Luncheon

Celebrate Easter at this month's luncheon, to be held at the Center at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 13. Highlights will include a menu of ham with cherries and pineapple, scalloped potatoes, steamed vegetables, hot rolls, beverages, and dessert (banana pudding and cake).

Participants are encouraged to dress up in formal attire, Easter bonnets, or funny costumes.

Cost is \$4.50. Advance registration is required.

Culinary Class

Get tips on food preparation and presentation in the Romulus Senior Center's second culinary class, set for Friday, March 28, at 11 a.m. Featured dishes will be chicken rollatini and eggplant parmesan.

Cost to be announced (no more than \$10). Preregistration is required. Everyone is welcome!

Jewelry Class

The next of Maria Lambert's always-popular jewelry classes will be held on Wednesday, March 26, at 12:30 p.m.

Cost is \$10. Preregister at the Center.

Special Trips

Call the Senior Center for more information about any of the following trips.

- **Casino Windsor** (Thursday, March 13; \$10),
- **Atlantic City** (March 16–20; \$450),
- **Cornwell (Turkeyville)** (Tuesday, April 15; \$75),
- **Windsor Racetrack** (Wednesday, April 23; \$10),
- **Historic Sauder Village** (Friday, May 2; \$70), and
- **Holland Tulip Festival** (May 6–7; \$150).

Shopping Trips

Romulus seniors are invited to ride the Center's van, free of charge, for Monday morning (9:30 a.m.) shopping trips to:

- Wal-Mart (March 10), and
- Kmart (March 17).

Reservations are accepted on a first-come/first-served basis.

Ask the Attorney

Local attorney Steve Robinson's monthly "Ask the Attorney" program – a free consultation service for Romulus senior citizens – has been scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, at the Center.

As always, both walk-ins and call-ins are welcome.

Regular Programs

Free or low-cost weekly programs offered at the Romulus Senior Center include:

- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 6 p.m.), and
- walking club (Fridays, 1 p.m.).

Hot Lunches

Don't forget that the Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. each weekday (except for holidays) for a suggested donation of only \$2.25.

Call by noon at least one business day in advance to make your reservation.

Taylor

6750 Troy • 313-291-7740

Tax Preparation Services

Volunteers at the Ford Senior Center will help senior citizens and persons with disabilities prepare Homestead Property Tax returns each Monday, and other tax returns each Thursday. Most returns will be electronically filed.

This service is available by appointment only: Call to make your reservation.

"Medicare Social"

Molina Healthcare, Inc., is sponsoring a "Medicare and You: It's Not Greek to Me" social at the Center on Wednesday, March 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. A presentation about Medicare benefit changes will be accompanied by food, music, and prizes.

Although the event is free, preregistration (by March 19) is required.

Billiards Tournament

The Ford Senior Center will host a billiards tournament for two-person teams (partners will be assigned to solo registrants) on Wednesday, April 16. Play will begin at 8 a.m. Prizes will be awarded for first- and second-place teams.

Cost is \$5 per player. (Proceeds to benefit the Ford Senior Center Bus Fund.) Preregister by Friday, April 4.

Drama Club Seeks New Members

The Prime Time Players Drama Club is looking for actors/actresses, costumers, and stagehands – no experience necessary! To learn more, stop in at their next meeting on Thursday, March 13, at 1:15 p.m.

Birthday Bash

If you were born in March, and are 55 or older, come out to the Center's next Birthday Bash, set for Thursday, March 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. Cake, ice cream, and karaoke will be among the attractions.

There's no charge to attend; simply preregister by Monday, March 24. No children, please.

Free Health Screening

On Wednesday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to noon, Wayne County senior citizens age 60 and up can get a number of free health tests (vital signs/blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol, complete blood count, urinalysis, and hemocult) at the Ford Senior Center. (People 50 to 59 are welcome, too, but must pay for lab work.)

Please bring the name of your physician and relevant health history information, including a list of your medications.

Although there is no charge for the screenings, donations will be accepted to help defray the costs of the program.

Blood Pressure Checks

Stop in at the Center for a free blood pressure check between 8:30 and 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, and Thursday, March 20. □

Birthday Wishes!

Happy 1st Birthday to Harvey Lee Frye III

(February 17, 2008)

We love you, "JuJu"!

From Papa, Nini,
Uncle Todd, Aunt Tonya,
Kelsyn, Mikayla,
Emmi, and Maddie



Harvey Lee Frye III

The Stork Arrived!

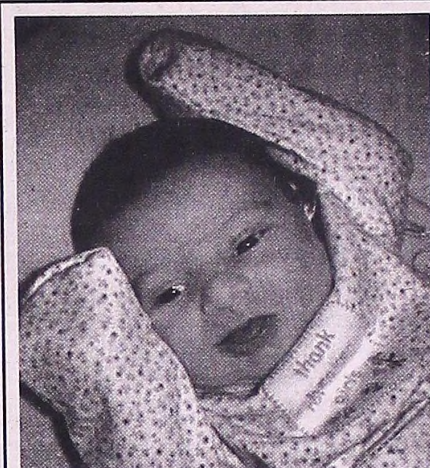
Madelyn Marie Formosa

Proudly announcing the birth of their new daughter, Madelyn Marie Formosa, are Danny and Melanie (Sundquist) Formosa of Canton, Michigan.

Madelyn was born in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (Ypsilanti, MI) at 10:14 a.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2008, weighing 8 lbs. even and measuring 18.25 in.

The Formosas, who have been trying to start a family for more than six years, call Madelyn their "miracle" baby.

Also giving the new arrival a warm welcome into the family were her paternal grandparents, Carmel and Carmen Formosa (Northville, MI), and her maternal grandparents, David and Janet Sundquist (Romulus, MI). □



Madelyn Marie Formosa

Community Calendar

continued from page 8

To enter one of the cookoffs or make a donation of baked goods, craft items, or cash, call the church (734-284-2811) and ask for Tamra. Registration deadline is Friday, March 7.

Breast Cancer Bowling Benefit

Children's Hospital of Michigan and the Brownstown Professional Fire Fighters are teaming up to sponsor a "Fight Against Breast Cancer" at Indian Lanes (4500 13th Street, Wyandotte) on Friday, March 14, at 9 p.m.

A donation of \$15 per person covers three games, shoes, and snacks. A 50/50 raffle and various gift-basket raffles will also be offered.

The Fire Fighters are urging everyone to come and show their support of Michelle Orme, wife of their colleague, Andy Orme.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Wayne County's Department of Environment will host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection for County residents only (proof of residency required) from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, at the Downriver Community Conference (15100

Northline Road, Southgate).

The program is designed to accept unwanted household chemicals for proper disposal as well as various electronic items for recycling.

Items to be accepted include household paints, stains, floor-care products, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, antifreeze, mercury-based thermometers and thermostats, televisions, computers, monitors, keyboards, printers, scanners, fax machines, cell phones, etc.

For further information, call Wayne County's Resource Recovery Coordinator at 734-326-3936.

Laurel & Hardy Fan Club

The next meeting of Sons of the Desert, a Laurel & Hardy Fan Club, will be held on Thursday, March 20 at Mama Mia's Restaurant (27770 Plymouth Road, west of Inkster). Enter the banquet door; parking is available across the street in the west lot.

Dinner will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a movie at 7:30 p.m.

For information, contact Frank Spunar at 734-955-2487. □

Obituary

Rodney D. Pennington

Rodney D. Pennington of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, February 24, 2008, at the age of 56.

Rodney — who was born in Floyd County, Kentucky, on Friday, May 25, 1951 — graduated from Romulus High School in 1969. The custodial engineer for the City of Romulus Department of Public Works enjoyed baseball, softball, golfing, fishing, singing, and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his mother, Mary Lou (Sanders) Pennington; 2 sons, Rodney Jr. (Romulus) and Ryan Pennington (Belleville, MI); 2 sisters, Carol (Danny) Sparks (Taylor, MI) and Theresa Kent (Romulus); and 5 grandchildren.

Among those who predeceased him was his father, Ellis T. Pennington, who passed away in 1999.

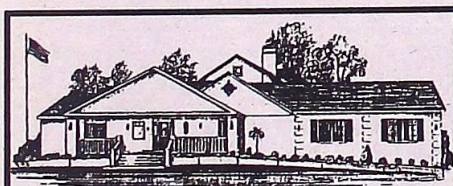
A funeral service was held on Thursday, February 28, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Reverend William Kren (The Evangelical Church) officiating. Burial



Rodney D. Pennington

was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Memorial tributes to the American Heart Association or Kidney Foundation would be appreciated. □



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